The Bomba y Plena Community Workshops-BPCW/30
2019-2020 REGISTRATION KICK OFF

Saludos, and Welcome to LP21’s Bomba & Plena Community Workshops-BPCW!

La Familia de Los Pleneros de la 21 is proud to launch the 2019-2020 season of Bomba & Plena Community Workshops (BPCW). This year we continue in celebrating 30 years of fostering community arts-education through the practice, performance, and celebration of Puerto Rican Bomba and Plena tradition.

BOMBA AND PLENA COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS: OUR HISTORY

In 1983 a group of friends, pleneros and Boricuas got together in La Casita de Chema in the South Bronx, to sing and jam out to the music and songs of their patria. Surrounded by the jardines of el Rincón Criollo, Los Pleneros de la 21 was born, taking its name from the community of the now disappeared 21st bus stop in Santurce, Puerto Rico, a neighborhood known for its pleneros. Motivated by the sense of responsibility of continuing the cultural legacy, LP21 created the “Bomba y Plena Children’s Workshop” in 1989.

Now known as the Bomba and Plena Community Workshops, the BPCW has evolved over the past 3 decades as the place where hundreds of youth and adults have come to learn and embrace powerful modes of self-expression, cultural awareness and a sense of community, through active and dynamic participation in Bomba and Plena and other related traditions. The Workshops have also helped many others in outstanding presentations including the Puerto Rican Day Parade of New York, Lincoln Center, and several televised programs, including Sesame Street!

From our dear Chimicuino toddlers to our talented Chamaco youth, to the students in our Adult classes and our masterclass series, Un Paso Alante - the energy and enthusiasm is palpable, as the BPCW/30 teachers and students take up their mantle in this rich history of keeping culture alive, actively participating in the cultura and community all around them.

For this we are proud to say - the Bomba and Plena Community Workshops is where legends teach our youth...and where our youth can become legends.

We look forward to a great BPCW season, with you on board as part of our BPCW Familia!

Yours truly,

La Familia de Los Pleneros de la 21

BPCW/30 is part of LP21’s Bomba and Plena for All- Learning through the Arts Initiatives, and is made possible in part by the Offices of NYC Council Member Diana Ayala, District 8 and:
The Bomba y Plena Community Workshops-BPCW/30
THE BPCW YOUTH PROGRAM


Over the next 9 months, BPCW Familias will be immersed in Comunidad y Cultura, as we expand the foundations of what our students learn with their minds, hearts, and hands. As they continue walking through the path of Bomba y Plena, your children will build their knowledge and skills with Master Teaching Artists in sequential weekly lessons over 28 Saturday sessions - paso a paso - each session filled with targeted lessons designed to help move them forward on their journey.

This milestone year will also include special elements and activities such as guest teaching artists, photo and video journeys of past and present bomba and plena masters, study tool kits, and as always the holiday Parrandas por El Barrio and Family Fun Day and Graduation Celebration in June.

While today’s first class allows the opportunity for children and parents to experience classes for the first time while meeting classmates, teachers and the BPCW staff, it is also meant to complete registrations, answer questions and get everyone settled in.

Parents are encouraged to enroll children in the class best suited for their child according to the following age groups:

- **Chimicuinos** (10 months – 3 yrs old): Parent & Child co-learning
- **Chespiritos** (Ages 3-6): Parent & Child co-learning
- **Chamacos** (Ages 6-12): Child participates on his/her own

Please keep in mind that their placement level might change at the discretion of our teaching artists, with previous consultation with you as the parent. After placement in the appropriate age group, your child’s regular schedule becomes official. Please be aware that this might take a few weeks.

**Until then, please follow the schedule of your child’s age group**

**YOUTH PROGRAM FYI’S**

1. **Parent Phone Tree Hotline** - This allows you to help share news with each other about unexpected schedule changes, field trips, etc. Those who already indicated in their online registration form that they’d like to participate will receive their call list by the **first week in November**. If you are interested in participating and have not signed up yet, please ask Nilsa to add that to your paper registration or let Jax know.

2. **BPCW Youth Payments** - The non-refundable **registration fee of $50 for each child** enrolled is due the first day of class to hold your child’s spot, for which you will receive a receipt. The **tuition varies** per age/level, and is paid in 3 installments during the year. The first tuition installment is due November 2nd. A Payment Policy packet with complete details about tuition payments be distributed the second session of class.

3. **Learning Resources and Program Details** - LP21 staff will share these materials with you via Dropbox.com, so you’ll have 24/7 access to these resources and files. **Email invitations to the Dropbox folder will be sent out soon**.

4. **THEMEmiration** - This year’s THEMEmiration is **LEARNING THROUGH STORYTELLING!** As BPCW continues celebrating this milestone anniversary, we reflect on the journey of self-discovery taken by each student as they learn, grow and join the long lineage of practitioners of bomba and plena. **Your children are part of the process of this shared cultural history**, and there’s a hugely rich world of cultural traditions that we want to share with them. We are excited to share all the ideas, songs and activities we have in mind with you around the theme...if you have an idea you'd like to propose that highlights the theme, let us know!
The Bomba y Plena Community Workshops-BPCW
SCHEDULES AND RATES AT-A-GLANCE

YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Class Schedule

Youth classes meet Saturdays, beginning October 19th, at the following times:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Registration Fee</th>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chimicuinos</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$350</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chespiritos</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamacos</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$425</td>
<td>$475</td>
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*Family Tuition packages:* If you are enrolling more than one child in the program, please discuss the correct family tuition package with LP21 Director, Juan “Juango” Gutiérrez.

ADULT WORKSHOPS (BPAW)

Adult Class Schedule

The following information is for **Cycle 1 Only**
Spanning from Oct. 22nd - Nov. 13th

- **Tambutéalo Tuesdays- 7:30-9pm**
  bomba dance: Tuesday evenings starting Oct 22nd

- **Hablando con el Tambor Wednesdays- 7:00-8:30pm**
  bomba and plena percussion: Wednesday evenings starting Oct 23rd

*For information on upcoming cycles follow facebook.com/pleneros21 or check out our website www.losplenerosdela21.org/bpaw

Adult Class Rates

- **Regular Rate:** $20 per class
- **Parents of BPCW Youth Students Discounted Rate:** $17 per class (est. 10% discount)
- **Packaged rates for an entire cycle:** $70 for a cycle of 4 sessions
The Bomba y Plena Community Workshops-BPCW/30
TEACHING ARTISTS & THE BPCW FAMILIA

Yelimara Concepción, Dance and Movement Instructor, BPCW-Children (s2010). Born and raised in Puerto Rico, she has sought to share her knowledge since 2008 in dance movement therapy and Bomba traditions through her work as dance teacher, youth educator and performer with the Harlem Children’s Zone, The Welfare Poets and other community centers and collectives. She holds a Masters degree in Dance Therapy from Pratt University.

Jorge Vázquez - Percussion Instructor, BPCW-Children (s2011). Born and raised in New York, Jorge learned Bomba & Plena from elders. He was a founding member of the popular next-generation Bomba and Plena groups YerbaBuena and Alma Moyo. He is actively recording and touring with Hot Peas & Butter, and recently released a CD, created as learning tool for teachers, seasoned and novice drummers interested in Bomba traditions.

LeAna Lopez - Teaching Artist, BPCW. Born and raised in New York City El Barrio/ Spanish Harlem, LeAna was raised surrounded in Boricuan musical tradition. LeAna has dedicated her years to Afro Cuban and Afro Puerto Rican music with a concentration on dancing and playing Bomba and Plena. She began with Los Pleneros de la 21 in 1997. Since 2004 she has performed with several Bomba groups throughout the Tri-State area and is currently a member of Legacy Women, an all-women’s group who specializes in Afro Puerto Rican and Afro Dominican roots music. LeAna received a B.A. in Africana and Puerto Rican studies, with a concentration in psychology. She plans to continue pursuing her passion of Africana and Puerto Rican/Latino studies, dance, percussion and being an educator.

Nelson “Mateo” González - LP21 Primary artist/teaching artist, BPCW Children and Adults, UPA, ITH, El Sancocho Musical (s2008). Mateo was first nurtured by his grandfather, master plenero Benny Ayala, and is a graduate of LP21’s Children’s Workshop. He flourished as a member of this group and throughout the broader NYC music community, to become an accomplished artist on all Latin percussion instruments and equally gifted as a dancer. Mateo was a recipient of the 2010-11 Tito Puente Scholarship Fund for his commitment and dedication to preserving traditional Puerto Rican music. He was featured in Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture’s Young Roots Performance Series, and was recently signed to Latin Percussion.

Juan J. 'Juango' Gutiérrez-Rodríguez - LP21’s founder & director (s1983). Percussionist, composer, arranger & Teaching Artist, BPCW-Adults, ITH, El Sancocho Musical. Juan leads LP21 artistic & cultural vision. A versed musician (Conservatorio de Música de PR, Lehman College, Manhattan School of Music), Juan maintains that Plena grounds him and fuels his passion to create music and community. His efforts, spanning 40 years, have afforded him with the NEA Heritage Fellow Award, a Grammy Nomination, countless accolades and the high regard from cultural institutions throughout the US, peer musicians and folk practitioners. Juan’s vast musical experience includes recordings, radio, and television shows as well as touring with renowned artists and musical legends from US and Puerto Rico.

Jax Davies - Programming Coordinator Jacqueline (Jax) Davies is a New York- based artist, community organizer, and emerging arts leader. A graduate from Cornell University, Jax combined an arts education with a Latino Studies minor and a business concentration. Having worked in community arts, programming, and the non-profit sector, Jax aims to continue to grow, celebrate, and enrich LP21’s communities through the spread of arts-based education.

Nilsa Márquez - Parent/Student Liaison Born in Bayamón, Puerto Rico, Nilsa Marquez became interested in Los Pleneros de la 21 when she met the love of her life Benny Ayala in 1991. Since then she has been an active volunteer with many different Los Pleneros de la 21 events, also putting her grandchildren in the kids’ workshops. Years later, Nilsa continues to be a one of the rocks upon which the BPCW series depends. (You might also run into her oldest grandchild Nelson “Mateo” González performing with the LP21 ensemble or teaching the Hablando con el Tambor adult percussion classes!)

LP21 STAFF CONTACT INFO
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